

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY OPR/WLG:JPMCDONNELL:EHH

APPROVED BY OPR/WLG:JPMCDONNELL

NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER

S/S: MR. BRIDGES

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O 151852Z JUL 76 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 175357

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR LE

SUBJECT: BEIRUT EVACUATION

1. BECAUSE OF CONTINUING DETERIORATION OF SECURITY SITUATION IN BEIRUT AND LACK OF ESSENTIAL SERVICES, WE ARE PLANNING FURTHER REDUCTION OF EMBASSY STAFF AND STRONGEST ADVICE TO AMCITS TO DEPART LEBANON.
2. IF SATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE WITH, AND ASSURANCES RECEIVED FROM, VARIOUS FACTIONS INVOLVED IN FIGHTING FOR TEMPORARY REOPENING OF AIRPORT, WE WOULD HOPE TO BEGIN EVACUATION ON MORNING OF JULY 20 IN BEIRUT.
3. OUR LATEST INFORMATION IS THAT RUNWAYS AT BEIRUT AIRPORT ARE USABLE AND OPERATIONS ARE POSSIBLE DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS.
4. IN VIEW OF PROXIMITY OF AIRCRAFT AND FAMILIARITY OF CREWS WITH AIRPORT, WE BELIEVE MEA CHARTER IS PREFERRED

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MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION FOR AIR EVACUATION.

5. REQUEST EMBASSY CONTACT MEA AND ASCERTAIN AVAILABILITY
OF AIRCRAFT FOR CHARTER TO COMMENCE EVACUATION OF
APPROXIMATELY 100 PERSONS ON MORNING OF JULY 20 IN BEIRUT.
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